

Message Text

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TAGS: CARICOM
SUBJECT: CARICOM MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN BELIZE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE
RELEASED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF CARICOM
FOREIGN MINISTERS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN BELIZE FEBRUARY 22
AND FEB 23.

"IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION FROM THE PREMIER OF BELIZE,
FOREIGN MINISTERS AND DELEGATES FROM BAHAMAS, BARBADOS, GRENADA,
GUYANA, JAMAICA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, THE INDEPENDENT
COUNTRIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN MET IN BELMOPAN
ON WEDNESDAY 22ND. AND THURSDAY 23RD. FEBRUARY, TO REVIEW
THE SITUATION AFFECTING THE FUTURE BELIZE IN THE LIGHT OF
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF DECISIONS
TAKEN BY THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN JAMAICA
IN 1970 AND IN LONDON IN 1977, AND OF THE VARIOUS RELEVANT
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PAGE 02 BELIZE 00172 280121Z

UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS. THIS MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS
REAFFIRMED THEIR FULL AND UNSTINTED SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT
AND PEOPLE OF BELIZE IN THEIR DETERMINATION FOR AN EARLY
AND SECURE INDEPENDENCE, WITH FULL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY. THE BELIZE GOVERNMENT REITERATED THAT LAND CESSION
AS A MEANS OF UETTILING THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE UNITED
KINGDOM AND GUATEMALA WAS UNACCEPTABLE. THE MEETING EXPRESSED

ITS FULL SUPPORT FOR THIS POSITION. THE MEETING TOOK NOTE OF THE OFT-REPEATED STATEMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT THAT NO SOLUTION WOULD BE IMPOSED AGAINST THE WILL OF THE BELIZEAN PEOPLE.

IN THIS REGARD IT WELCOMED THE PREMIER'S REPORT OF HIS RECENT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE. THE URGENCY OF A JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND GUATEMALA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BELIZE WAS UNDERScoreD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FULL INVOLVEMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT BELIZE IN PLANS FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE ROLE BELIZE IS EXPECTED TO PLAY IN THE PROCESS OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT THE CONTROVERSY IS AN OBSTACLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ALL STATES IN THE REGION AND THE MEETING DEEMED IT IMPERATIVE THAT ALL EFFORTS BE CONTINUED TO REMOVE THAT OBSTACLE. THE MEETING ASKED MEMBERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO REQUEST THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT TO CONVENE AN EARLY MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE AND PLEDGED ITS CONTINUING SUPPORT TO THE CAUSE OF BELIZE IN ALL INTERNATIONAL FORMS."

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